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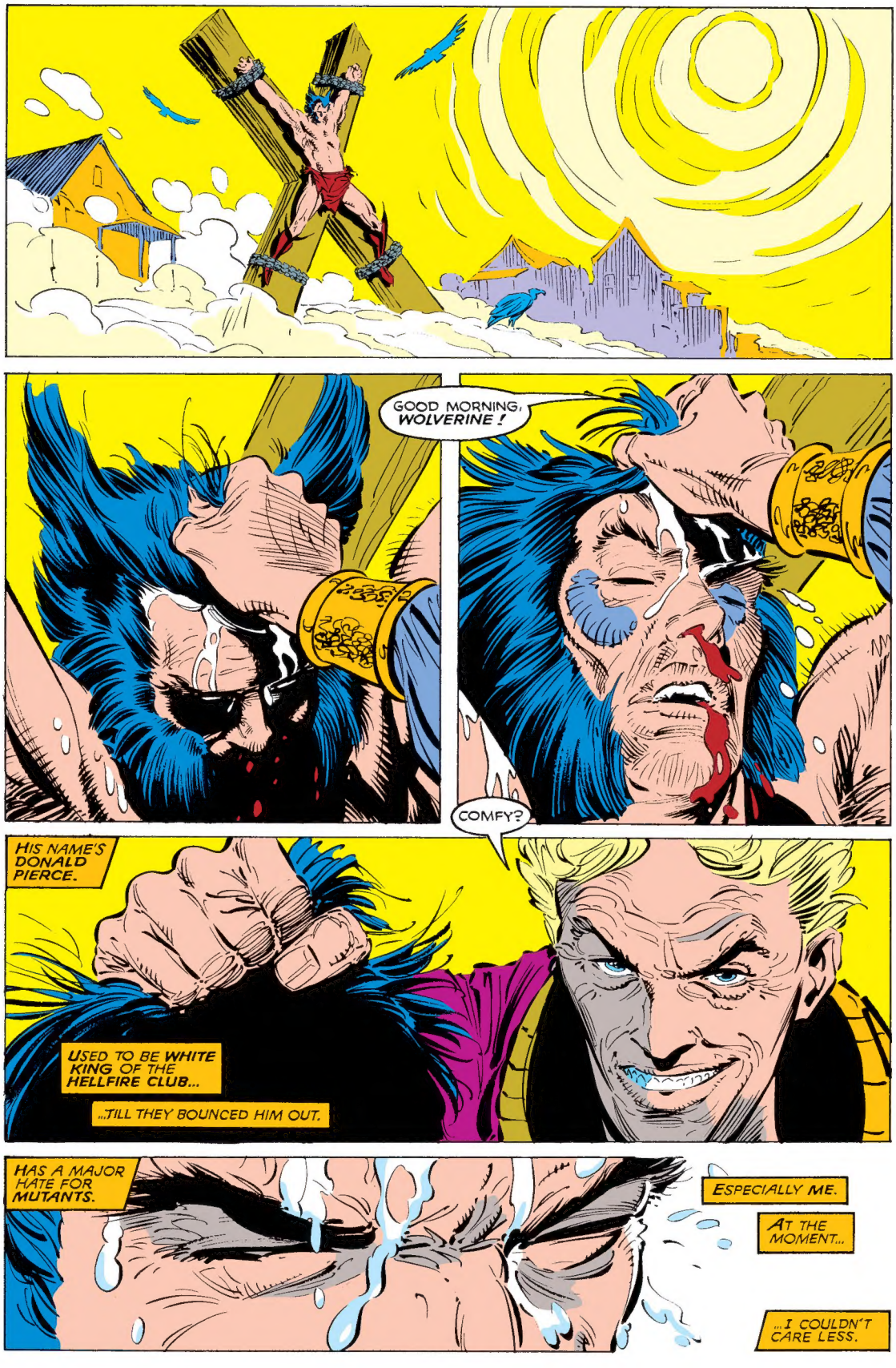
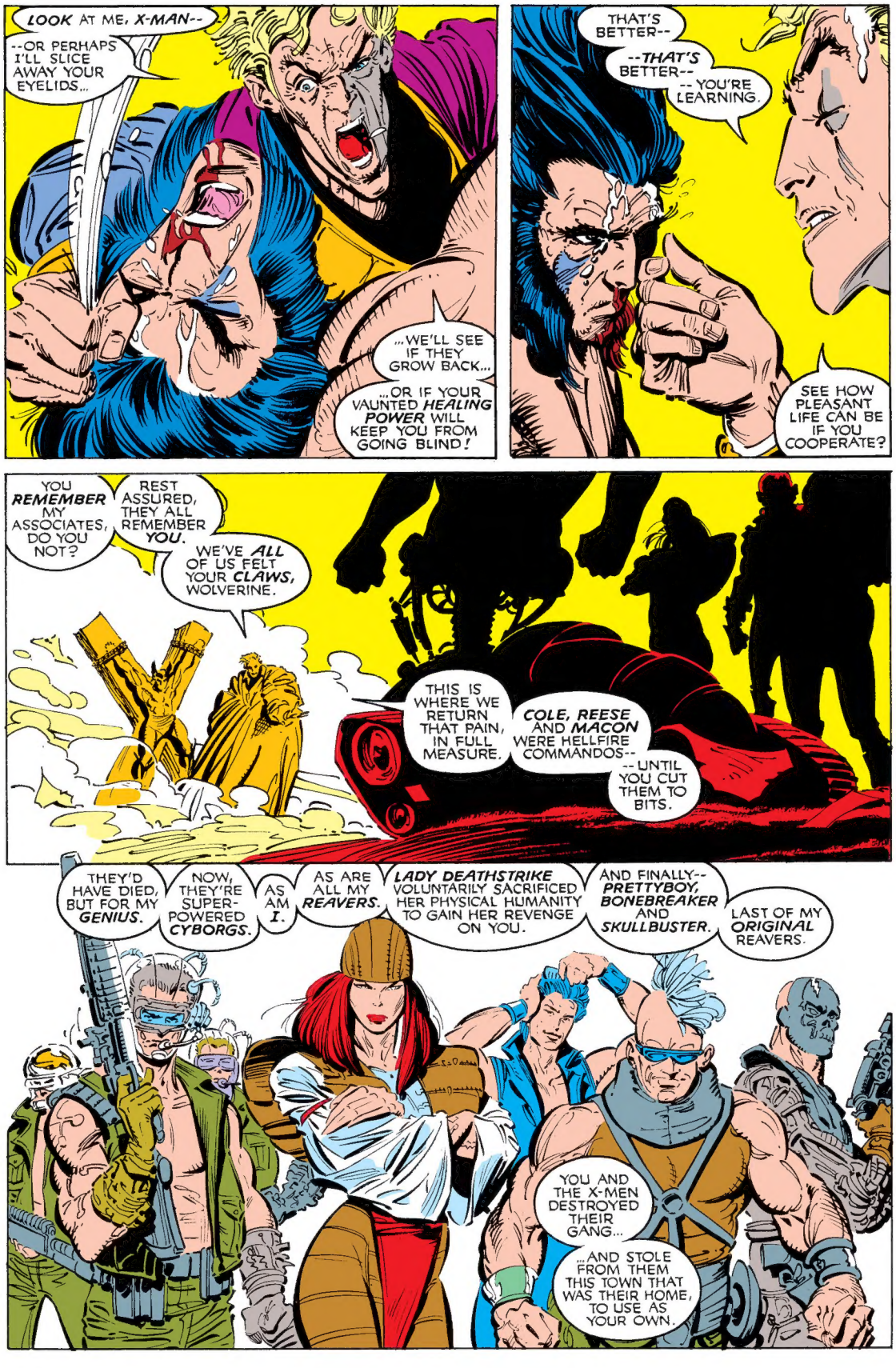
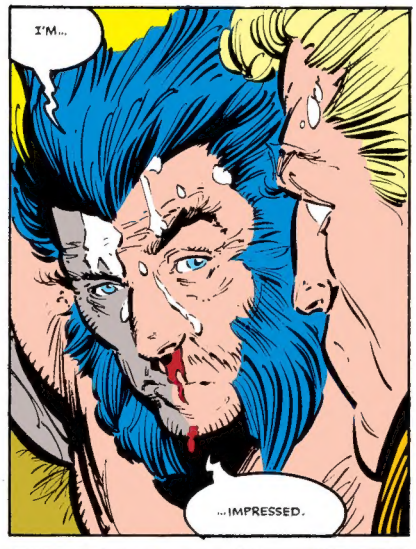
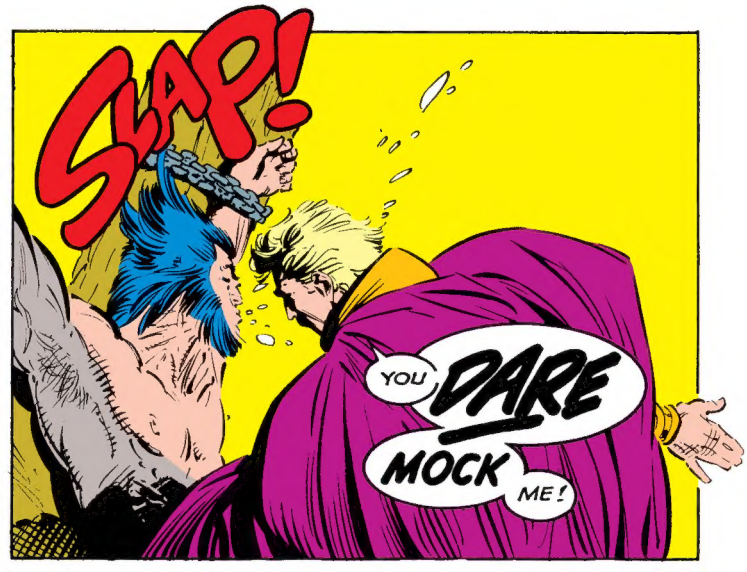

GOOD MORNING, WOLVERINE!
COMFY?
HIS NAME'S DONALD PIERCE.
USED TO BE WHITE KING OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
...TILL THEY BOUNCED HIM OUT.
HAS A MAJOR HATE FOR MUTANTS.
ESPECIALLY ME.
AT THE MOMENT...
...I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

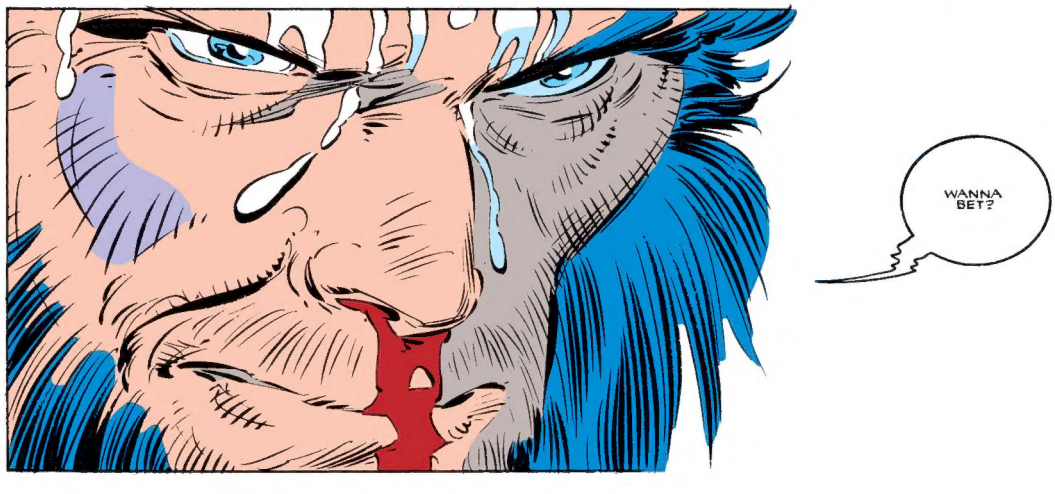

LOOK AT ME, X-MAN--
--OR PERHAPS I'LL SLICE AWAY YOUR EYELIDS...
...WE'LL SEE IF THEY GROW BACK...
...OR IF YOUR VAUNTED HEALING POWER WILL KEEP YOU FROM GOING BLIND!
THAT'S BETTER--
--THAT'S BETTER--
-- YOU'RE LEARNING.
SEE HOW PLEASANT LIFE CAN BE IF YOU COOPERATE?
YOU REMEMBER MY ASSOCIATES, DO YOU NOT?
REST ASSURED, THEY ALL REMEMBER YOU.
WE'VE ALL OF US FELT YOUR CLAWS, WOLVERINE.
THIS IS WHERE WE RETURN THAT PAIN, IN FULL MEASURE.
COLE, REESE AND MACON WERE HELLFIRE COMMANDOS--
-- UNTIL YOU CUT THEM TO BITS.
THEY'D HAVE DIED, BUT FOR MY GENIUS.
NOW, THEY'RE SUPER-POWERED CYBORGS.
AS AM I.
AS ARE ALL MY REAVERS.
LADY DEATHSTRIKE VOLUNTARILY SACRIFICED HER PHYSICAL HUMANITY TO GAIN HER REVENGE ON YOU.
AND FINALLY-- PRETTYBOY, BONEBREAKER AND SKULLBUSTER.
LAST OF MY ORIGINAL REAVERS.
YOU AND THE X-MEN DESTROYED THEIR GANG...
...AND STOLE FROM THEM THIS TOWN THAT WAS THEIR HOME, TO USE AS YOUR OWN.


I'M...
...IMPRESSED.


SLAP!
YOU DARE MOCK ME!

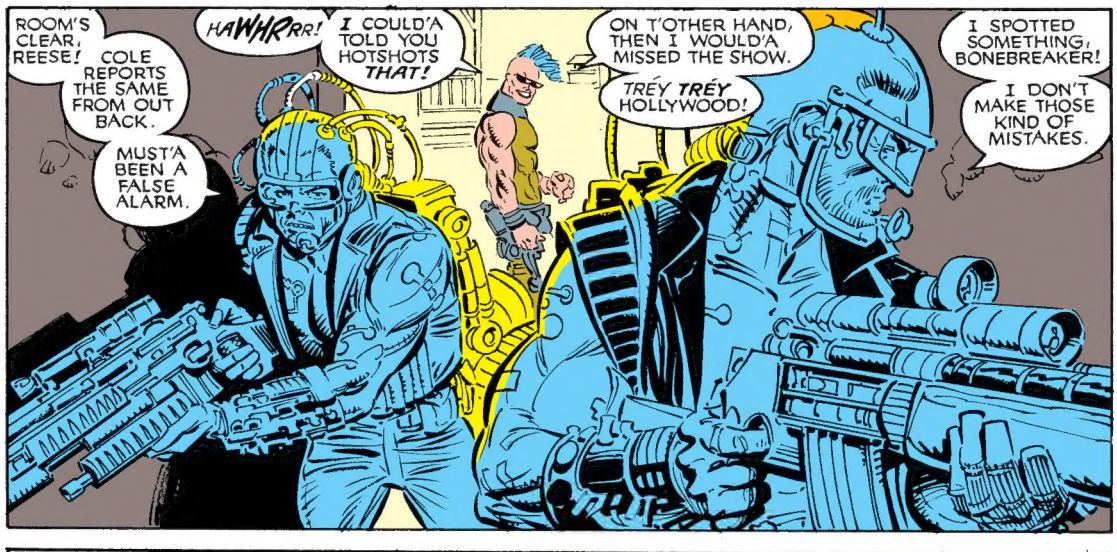
VERY GOOD, WOLVERINE.
Oh, VERY GOOD!
YOU ANGERED ME.
MADE ME LOSE MY TEMPER.
LOSE CONTROL.

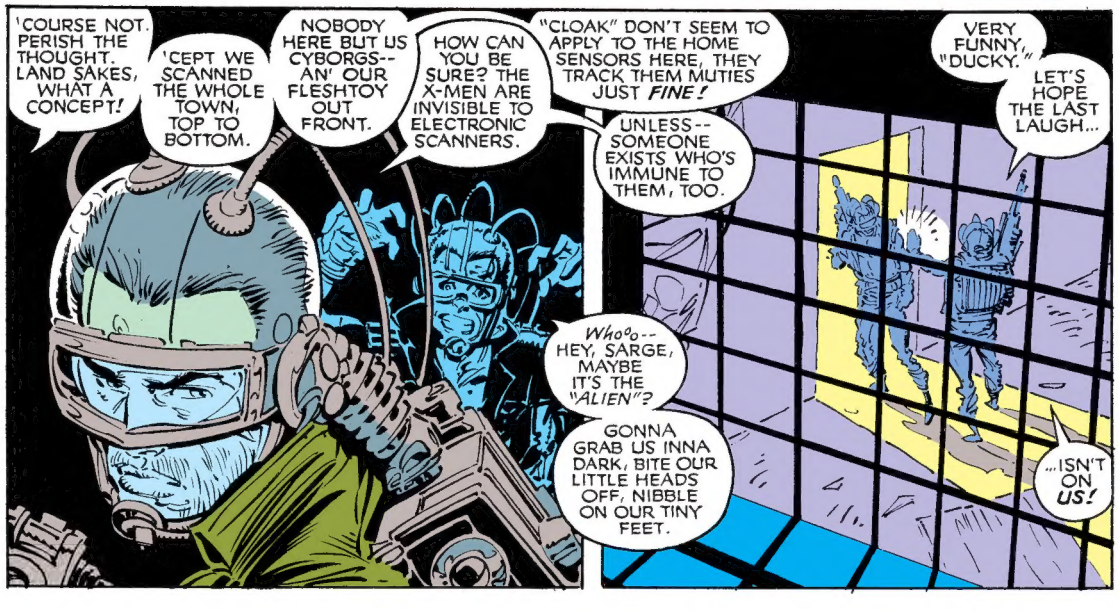
THIS ROUND, THEN, TO YOU.
ENJOY THE TASTE OF VICTORY, LITTLE MAN.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!

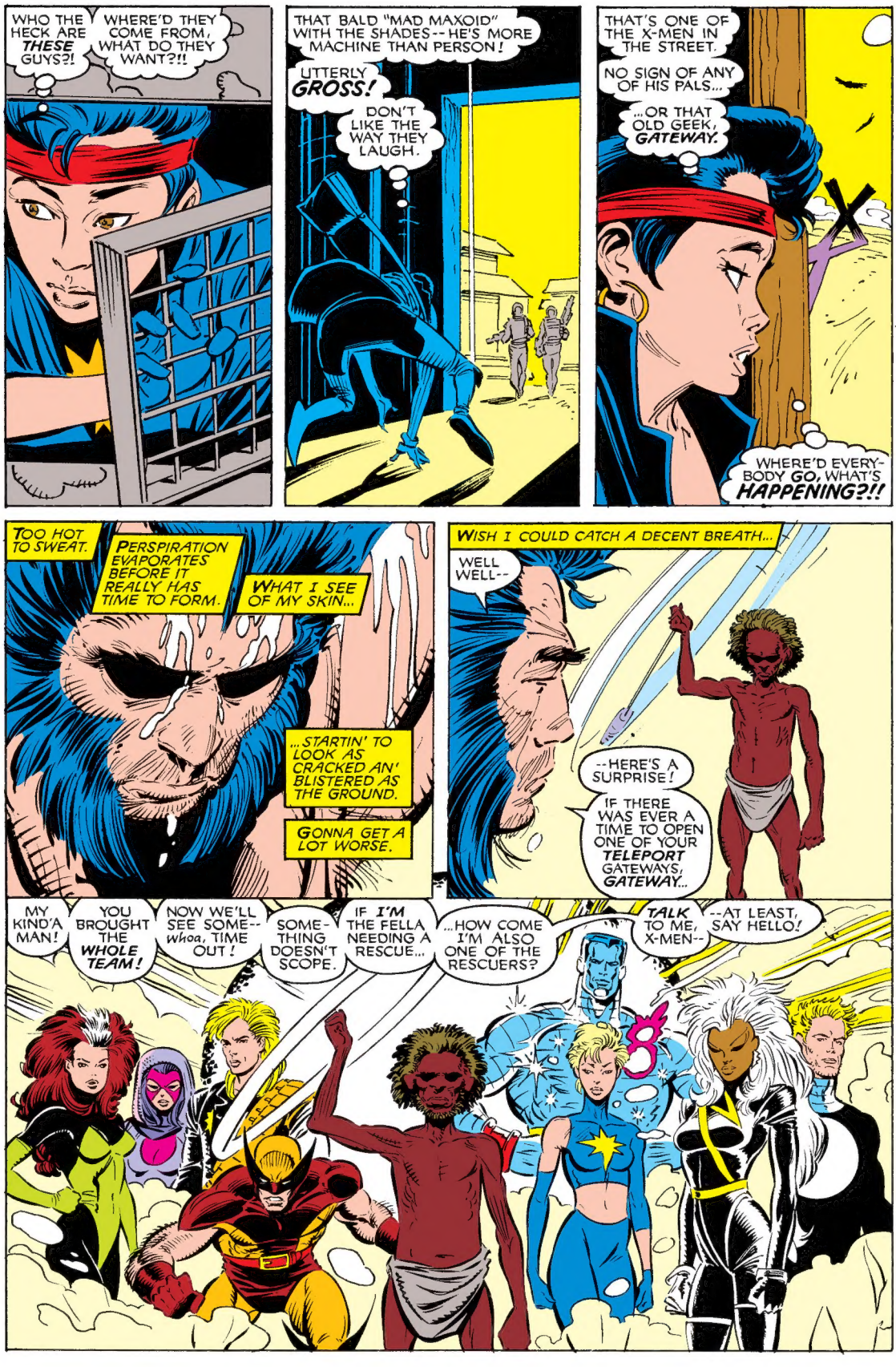

WANNA BET?

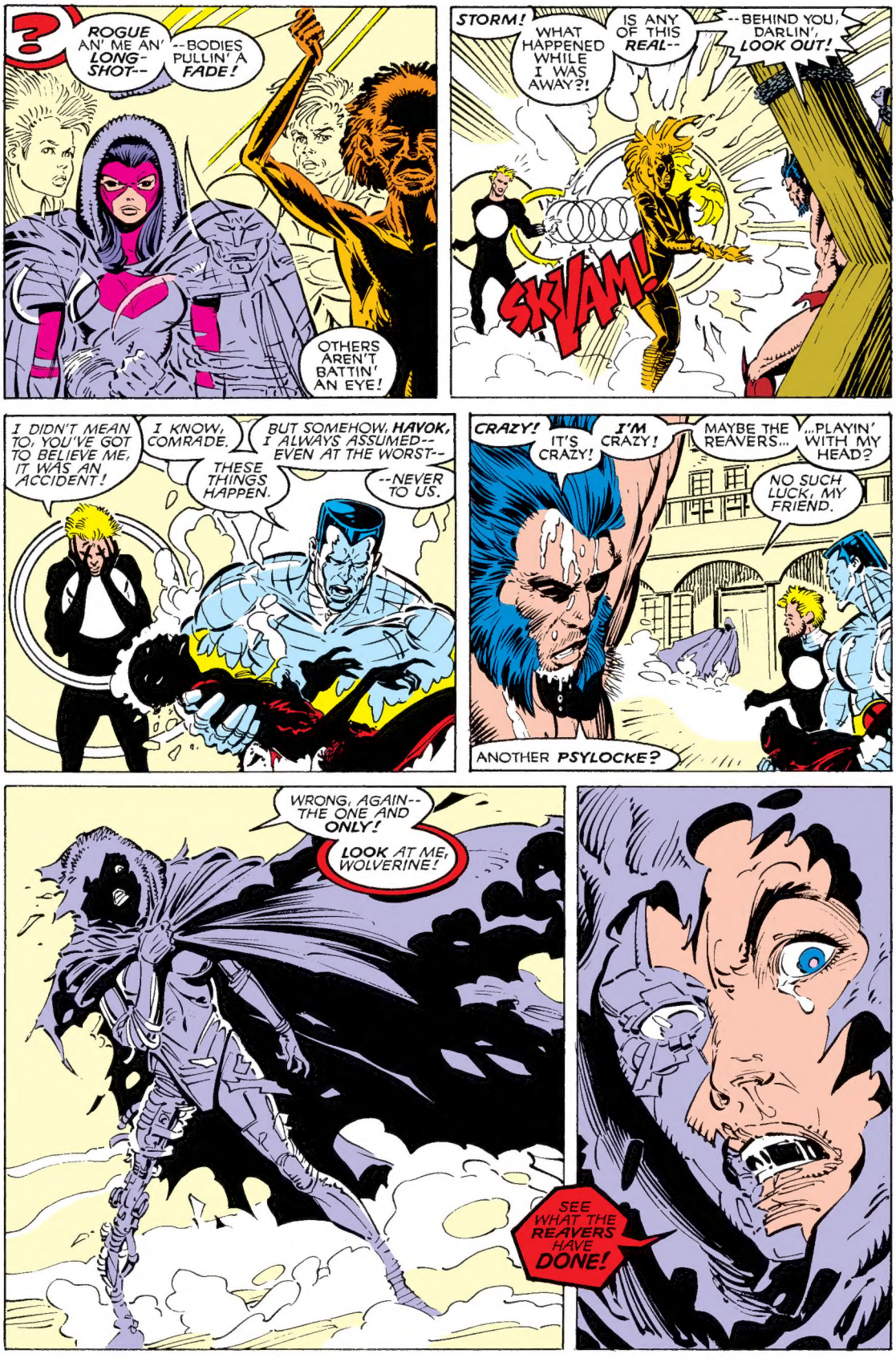
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
TUGGING ON MY BONDS JUST MAKES ME BLEED.
I'M HERE, LOOKS LIKE, FOR THE DURATION.
SUN'S RIGHT IN MY FACE.
AIR'S ALREADY HOT. NO CLOUDS IN THE SKY, NOT A HOPE OF SHADE.
GONNA BE A LONG DAY.

HOPE THE BAD GUYS HAVE AS MUCH FUN.
BOOT!

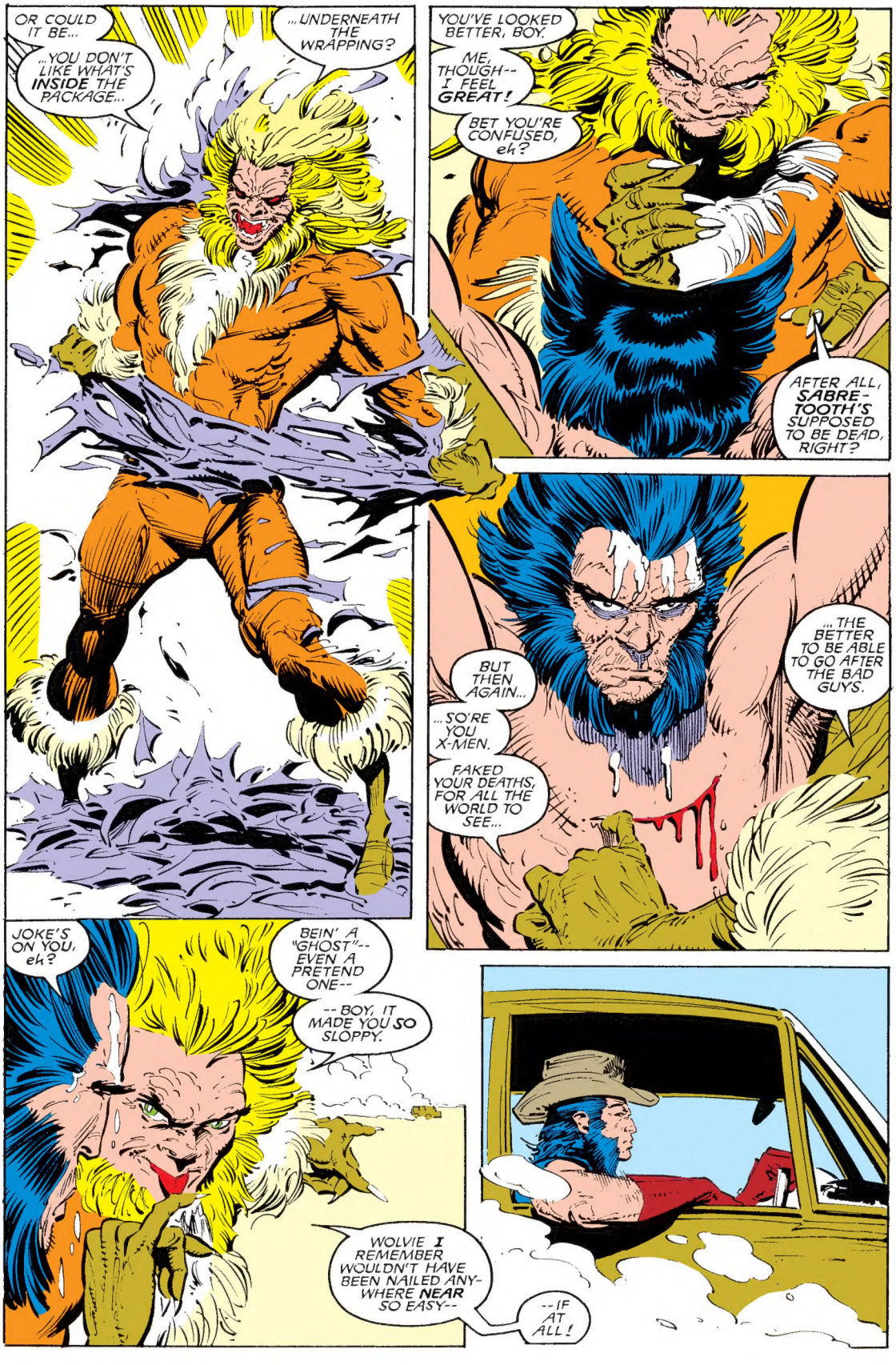

ROOM'S CLEAR, REESE!
COLE REPORTS THE SAME FROM OUT BACK.
MUST'A BEEN A FALSE ALARM.
HAWHRRR!
I COULD'A TOLD YOU HOTSHOTS THAT!
ON T'OTHER HAND, THEN I WOULD'A MISSED THE SHOW.
TRÉY TRÉY HOLLYWOOD!
I SPOTTED SOMETHING, BONEBREAKER!
I DON'T MAKE THOSE KIND OF MISTAKES.

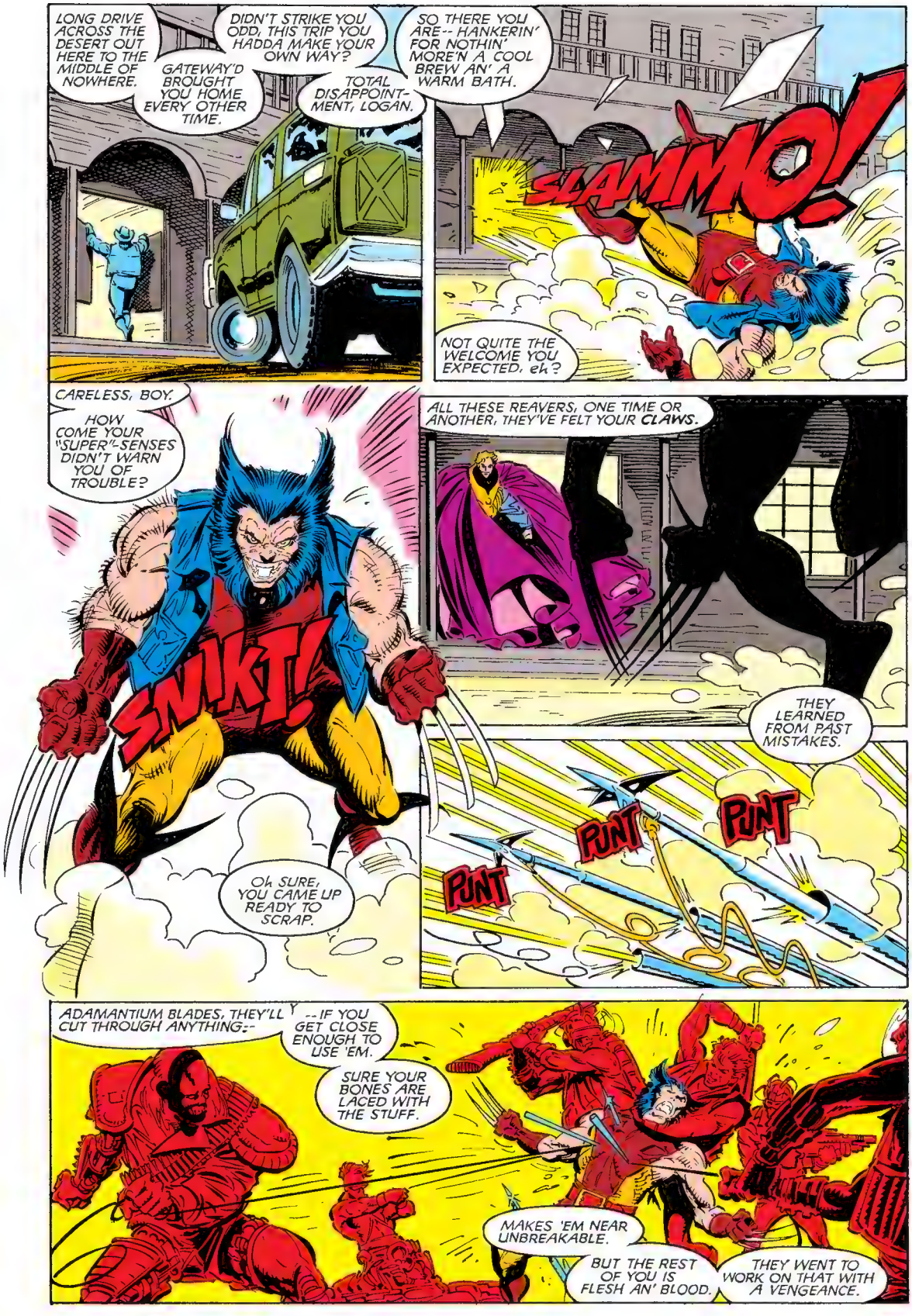

'COURSE NOT. PERISH THE THOUGHT. LAND SAKES, WHAT A CONCEPT!
'CEPT WE SCANNED THE WHOLE TOWN, TOP TO BOTTOM.
NOBODY HERE BUT US CYBORGS-- AN' OUR FLESHTOY OUT FRONT.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? THE X-MEN ARE INVISIBLE TO ELECTRONIC SCANNERS.
"CLOAK" DON'T SEEM TO APPLY TO THE HOME SENSORS HERE, THEY TRACK THEM MUTIES JUST FINE!
UNLESS-- SOMEONE EXISTS WHO'S IMMUNE TO THEM, TOO.
Whoo-- HEY, SARGE, MAYBE IT'S THE "ALIEN"?
GONNA GRAB US INNA DARK, BITE OUR LITTLE HEADS OFF, NIBBLE ON OUR TINY FEET.
VERY FUNNY, "DUCKY."
LET'S HOPE THE LAST LAUGH...
...ISN'T ON US!


WHO THE HECK ARE THESE GUYS?!
WHERE'D THEY COME FROM, WHAT DO THEY WANT?!!
THAT BALD "MAD MAXOID" WITH THE SHADES--HE'S MORE MACHINE THAN PERSON!
UTTERLY GROSS!
DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY LAUGH.
THAT'S ONE OF THE X-MEN IN THE STREET.
NO SIGN OF ANY OF HIS PALS...
...OR THAT OLD GEEK, GATEWAY.
WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!!
TOO HOT TO SWEAT.
PERSPIRATION EVAPORATES BEFORE IT REALLY HAS TIME TO FORM.
WHAT I SEE OF MY SKIN...
...STARTIN' TO LOOK AS CRACKED AN' BLISTERED AS THE GROUND.
GONNA GET A LOT WORSE.
WISH I COULD CATCH A DECENT BREATH...
WELL WELL--
--HERE'S A SURPRISE!
IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME TO OPEN ONE OF YOUR TELEPORT GATEWAYS, GATEWAY...
MY KIND'A MAN!
YOU BROUGHT THE WHOLE TEAM!
NOW WE'LL SEE SOME--whoa, TIME OUT!
SOMETHING DOESN'T SCOPE.
IF I'M THE FELLA NEEDING A RESCUE...
...HOW COME I'M ALSO ONE OF THE RESCUERS?
TALK TO ME, X-MEN--
--AT LEAST, SAY HELLO!

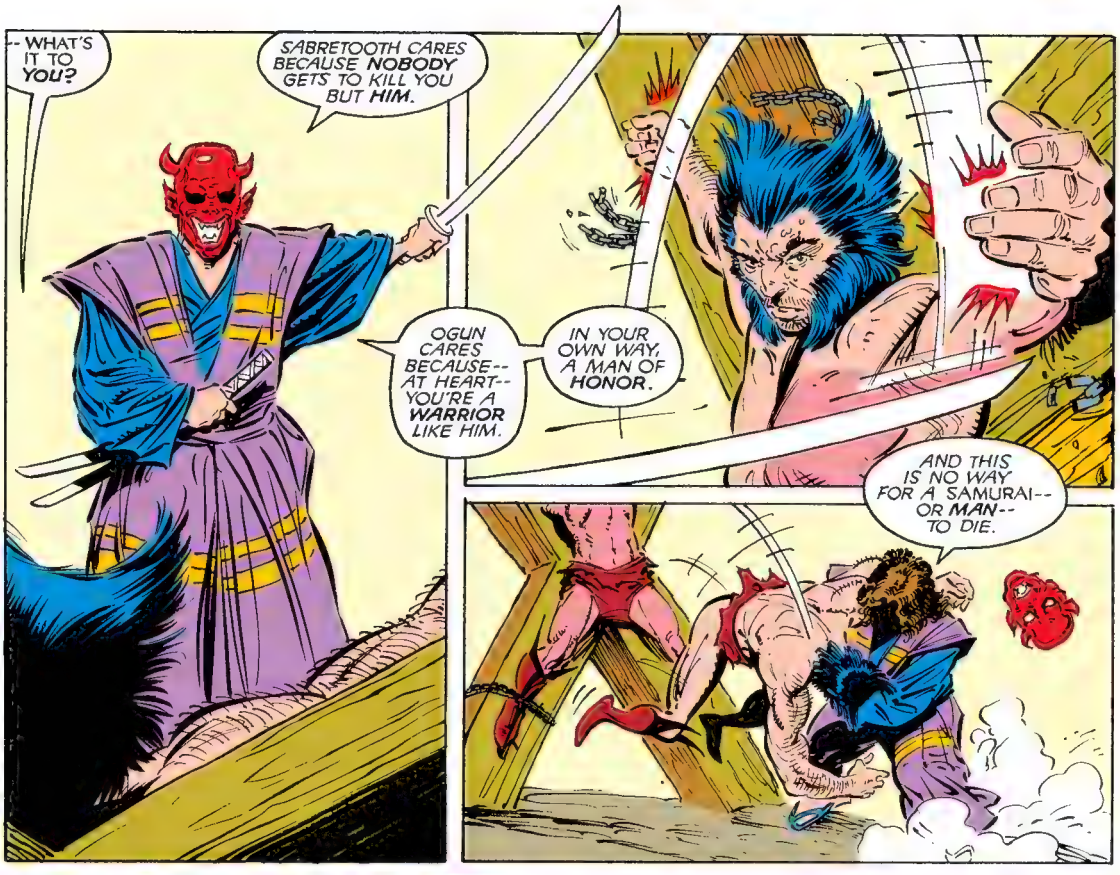

?
ROGUE AN' ME AN' LONG-SHOT--
--BODIES PULLIN' A FADE!
OTHERS AREN'T BATTIN' AN EYE!
STORM!
WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS AWAY?!
IS ANY OF THIS REAL--
--BEHIND YOU, DARLIN', LOOK OUT!
SKYAM!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I KNOW, COMRADE.
THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
BUT SOMEHOW, HAVOK, I ALWAYS ASSUMED-- EVEN AT THE WORST--
--NEVER TO US.
CRAZY!
IT'S CRAZY!
I'M CRAZY!
MAYBE THE REAVERS...
...PLAYIN' WITH MY HEAD?
NO SUCH LUCK, MY FRIEND.
ANOTHER PSYLOCKE?
WRONG, AGAIN-- THE ONE AND ONLY!
LOOK AT ME, WOLVERINE!
SEE WHAT THE REAVERS HAVE DONE!

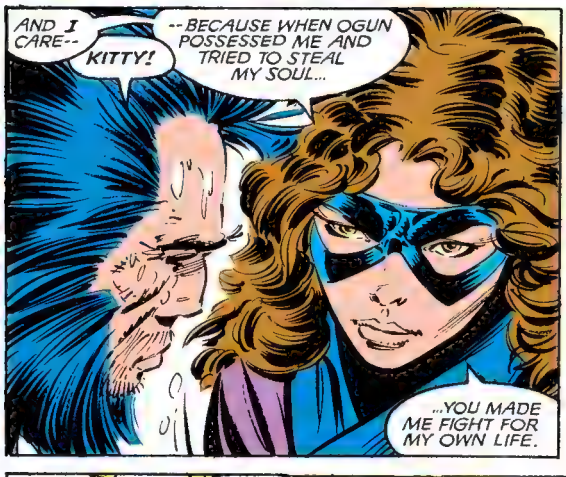
HARD TIME FOR HEROES, "BUB."
ROGUE'S GONE, LONGSHOT QUIT, STORM... GOT KILLED.
ONLY FOUR OF US WERE LEFT WHEN THE REAVERS CAME.
WE NEEDED A LEADER, WOLVERINE!
WHY WEREN'T YOU HERE TO HELP?!
I KNOW, I KNOW, DON'T TELL ME.
OBLIGATION, DUTY, GIRI.
DON'T YOU HAVE A DUTY TO THE X-MEN?
SNIKT
LIKE MY CLAWS?
MAYBE NOT SO MACHO-STYLISH AS YOURS...
... BUT I'LL BET THEY CUT AS DEEP.
SLASH!
YOU GOT CLAWS.
I GOT CLAWS.
ALL GOD'S CHILLUN GOT CLAWS.
THE MORE WE USE 'EM...
... THE BETTER WE LIKE IT!
PSYLOCKE-- BETSY-- DON'T!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SWEETIE?
AREN'T YOU THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT YOU DO?
BIT LATE TO TURN SQUEAMISH...
...AT THE SIGHT OF WHAT PEOPLE LOVE SEEING YOU DO BEST.

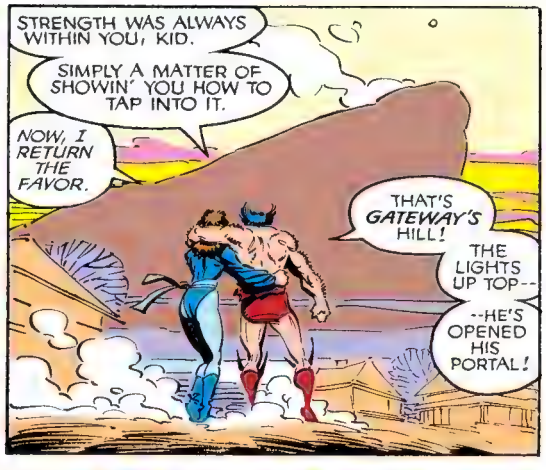

OR COULD IT BE...
...YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT'S INSIDE THE PACKAGE...
...UNDERNEATH THE WRAPPING?
YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER, BOY.
ME, THOUGH-- I FEEL GREAT!
BET YOU'RE CONFUSED, eh?
AFTER ALL, SABRE-TOOTH'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, RIGHT?
BUT THEN AGAIN...
...SO'RE YOU X-MEN.
FAKED YOUR DEATHS, FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE...
...THE BETTER TO BE ABLE TO GO AFTER THE BAD GUYS.
JOKE'S ON YOU, eh?
BEIN' A "GHOST"-- EVEN A PRETEND ONE--
--BOY, IT MADE YOU SO SLOPPY.
WOLVIE I REMEMBER WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN NAILED ANY-WHERE NEAR SO EASY--
--IF AT ALL!

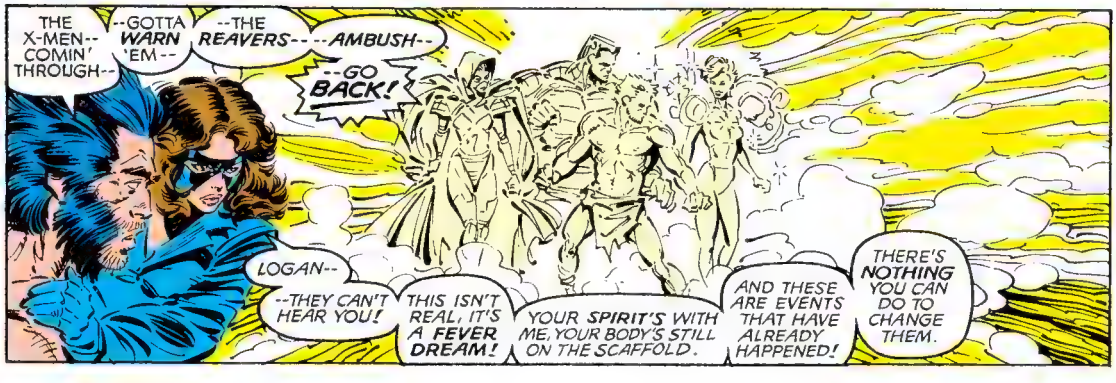

LONG DRIVE ACROSS THE DESERT OUT HERE TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
DIDN'T STRIKE YOU ODD, THIS TRIP YOU HADDA MAKE YOUR OWN WAY?
GATEWAY'D BROUGHT YOU HOME EVERY OTHER TIME.
TOTAL DISAPPOINTMENT, LOGAN.
SO THERE YOU ARE-- HANKERIN' FOR NOTHIN' MORE'N A COOL BREW AN' A WARM BATH.
SLAMMO!
NOT QUITE THE WELCOME YOU EXPECTED, eh?
CARELESS, BOY.
HOW COME YOUR "SUPER"-SENSES DIDN'T WARN YOU OF TROUBLE?
SNIKT!
Oh SURE, YOU CAME UP READY TO SCRAP.
ALL THESE REAVERS, ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, THEY'VE FELT YOUR CLAWS.
THEY LEARNED FROM PAST MISTAKES.
PUNT
PUNT
PUNT
ADAMANTIUM BLADES, THEY'LL CUT THROUGH ANYTHING--
--IF YOU GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE 'EM.
SURE YOUR BONES ARE LACED WITH THE STUFF.
MAKES 'EM NEAR UNBREAKABLE.
BUT THE REST OF YOU IS FLESH AN' BLOOD.
THEY WENT TO WORK ON THAT WITH A VENGEANCE.

AN' WHEN HIS BULLY-BOYS WERE DONE...
... PIERCE MADE SURE PERSONALLY...
...YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE HIS PARTY...
...BEFORE IT WAS OVER!
MAN HAS A SERIOUS DISLIKE FOR YOU, SONNY.
THAT MASK!
LIKE IT?
JAPANESE DEMON-FACE, WORN BY NINJAS TO SCARE THEIR ADVERSARIES.
BELONGED TO YOUR OLD TEACHER, OGUN.
HE WAS YOUR FRIEND, LOGAN--
--BUT YOU KILLED HIM.
HAD TO.
OR HE'D HAVE DONE WORSE...
...TO KITTY PRYDE.
Ah-- BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN YOU WERE THERE...
...WHEN YOUR TEAM NEEDED YOU.
YOU FOUGHT THEN...
...WHY NOT NOW?
MAYBE I'M TIRED.
MAYBE MY STRING'S FINALLY RUN OUT--

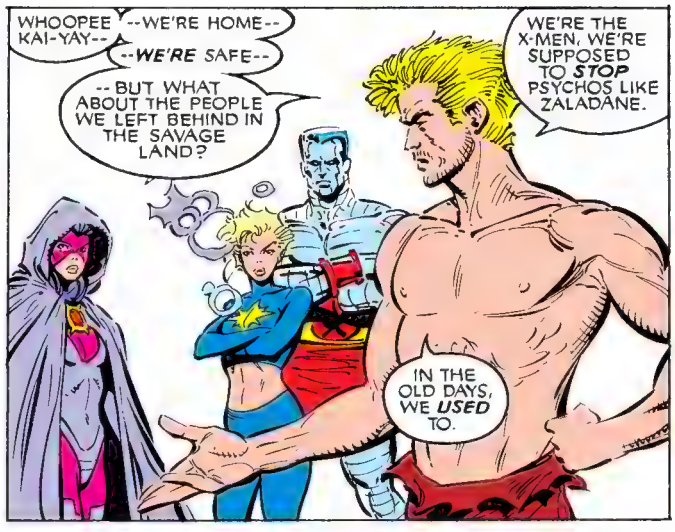

--WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
SABRETOOTH CARES BECAUSE NOBODY GETS TO KILL YOU BUT HIM.
OGUN CARES BECAUSE--AT HEART--YOU'RE A WARRIOR LIKE HIM.
IN YOUR OWN WAY, A MAN OF HONOR.
AND THIS IS NO WAY FOR A SAMURAI--OR MAN--TO DIE.

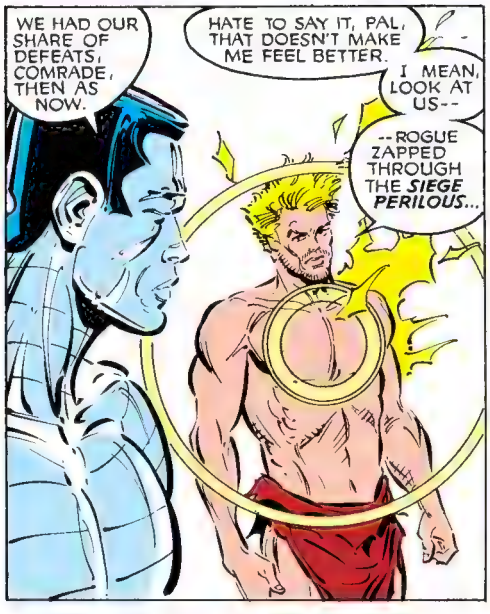

AND I CARE--
KITTY!
--BECAUSE WHEN OGUN POSSESSED ME AND TRIED TO STEAL MY SOUL...
...YOU MADE ME FIGHT FOR MY OWN LIFE.


STRENGTH WAS ALWAYS WITHIN YOU, KID.
SIMPLY A MATTER OF SHOWIN' YOU HOW TO TAP INTO IT.
NOW, I RETURN THE FAVOR.
THAT'S GATEWAY'S HILL!
THE LIGHTS UP TOP--
--HE'S OPENED HIS PORTAL!


THE X-MEN--COMIN' THROUGH--
--GOTTA WARN 'EM--
--THE REAVERS----AMBUSH--
--GO BACK!
LOGAN--
--THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU!
THIS ISN'T REAL, IT'S A FEVER DREAM!
YOUR SPIRIT'S WITH ME, YOUR BODY'S STILL ON THE SCAFFOLD.
AND THESE ARE EVENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THEM.

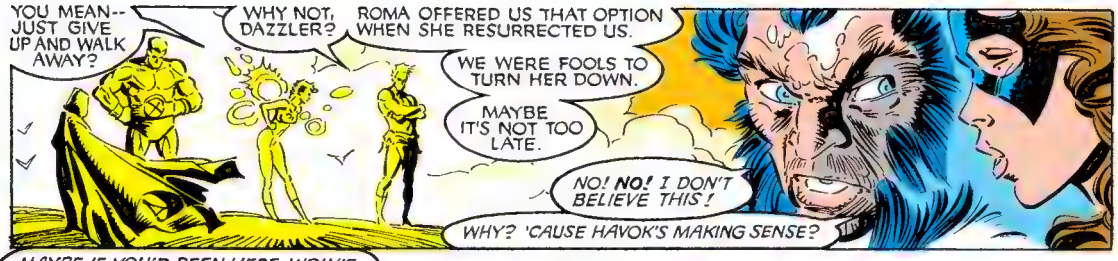
BESIDES-- LOOK AT PSYLOCKE'S FACE.
BETSY DOESN'T NEED ANY WARNING, LOGAN.
SHE ALREADY KNOWS.


WHOOPEE KAI-YAY--
--WE'RE HOME--
--WE'RE SAFE--
--BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE LEFT BEHIND IN THE SAVAGE LAND?
WE'RE THE X-MEN, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STOP PSYCHOS LIKE ZALADANE.
IN THE OLD DAYS, WE USED TO.

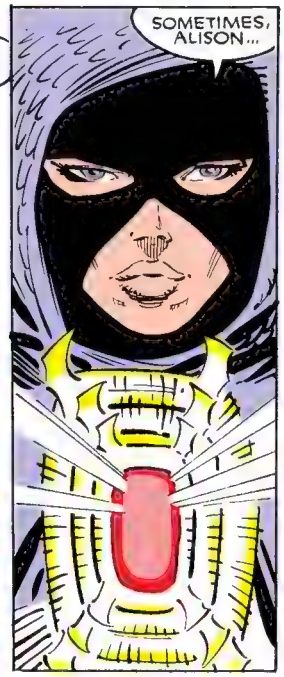

WE HAD OUR SHARE OF DEFEATS, COMRADE, THEN AS NOW.
HATE TO SAY IT, PAL, THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
I MEAN, LOOK AT US--
--ROGUE ZAPPED THROUGH THE SIEGE PERILOUS...

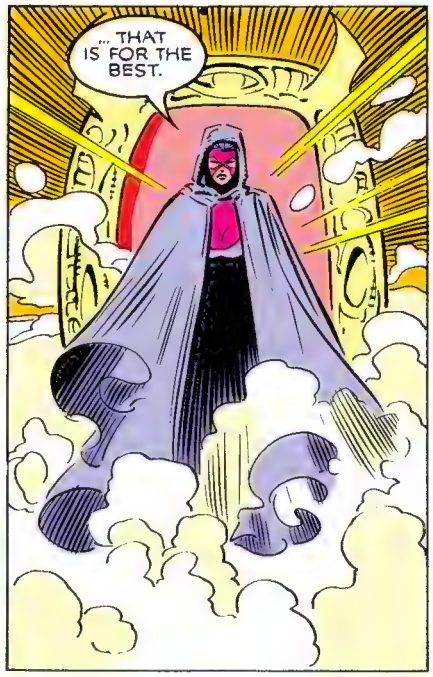
...TO HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT FATE.
LONGSHOT QUIT. STORM... DEAD.
AND WHO KNOWS WHERE WOLVERINE IS THESE DAYS?!
MORE CONCERNED WITH HIS OWN LIFE, I GUESS, THAN OURS.
'PEARS THEY AIN'T COMIN' DOWN, BRO'.

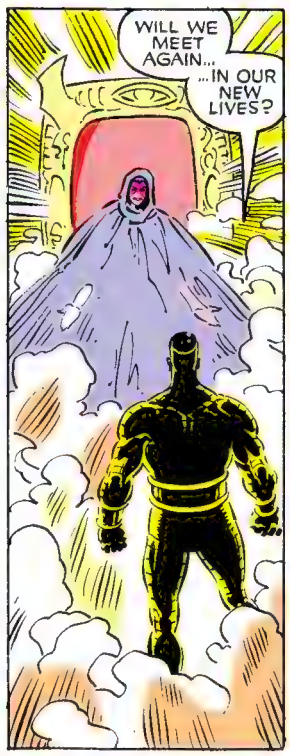
IF THE X-MEN WON'T COME TO THE SLAUGHTER, SKULLY...
... ONE SLAUGHTER'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO THEM.
HOW CAN WE EVEN CALL OURSELVES A TEAM ANYMORE, JUST THE FOUR OF US LEFT, LIVING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, WHAT GOOD ARE WE TO ANYONE?
HOW DOES THIS FURTHER PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM-- REMEMBER, THE ONE THAT BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER-- OF A BETTER WORLD, WHERE MUTANT AND HUMAN CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE?
LISTEN TO ME-- "MUTANT AND HUMAN"-- AS THOUGH BEING THE ONE PRECLUDED THE OTHER. IT'S LIKE WE PERPETUATE THE PREJUDICE, EVEN AS WE TRY TO FIGHT IT.
WELL, I'VE HAD IT, FOLKS.
I'VE PAID MY DUES-- WE ALL HAVE, WITH THE SCARS TO PROVE IT.
I SAY, THE TIME'S COME TO CALL IT QUITS!


YOU MEAN-- JUST GIVE UP AND WALK AWAY?
WHY NOT, DAZZLER?
ROMA OFFERED US THAT OPTION WHEN SHE RESURRECTED US.
WE WERE FOOLS TO TURN HER DOWN.
MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
NO! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHY? 'CAUSE HAVOK'S MAKING SENSE?

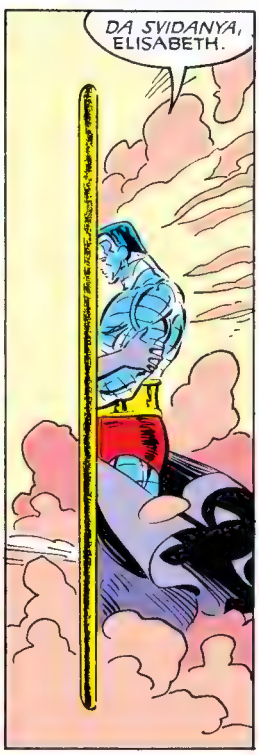
MAYBE IF YOU'D BEEN HERE, WOLVIE, YOU COULD'VE ARGUED AGAINST IT.
BUT YOU WEREN'T.
ROMA SAID THE SIEGE PERILOUS WAS OURS TO USE.
I SIMPLY NEVER IMAGINED WE WOULD EVER NEED TO.
IT FEELS LIKE...
... WE'RE RUNNING AWAY.

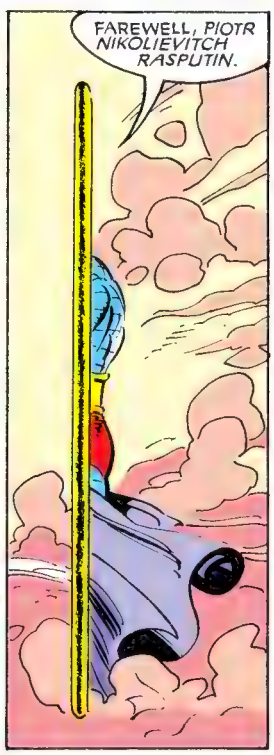

SOMETIMES, ALISON...

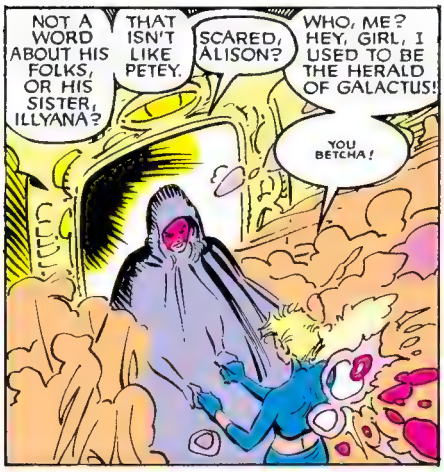

... THAT IS FOR THE BEST.

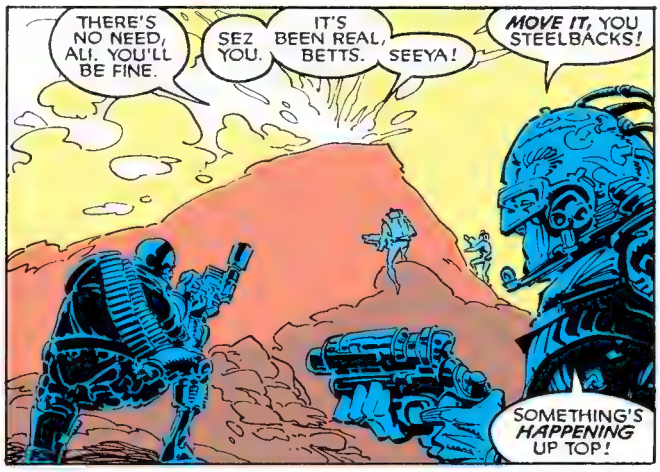

WILL WE MEET AGAIN...
...IN OUR NEW LIVES?

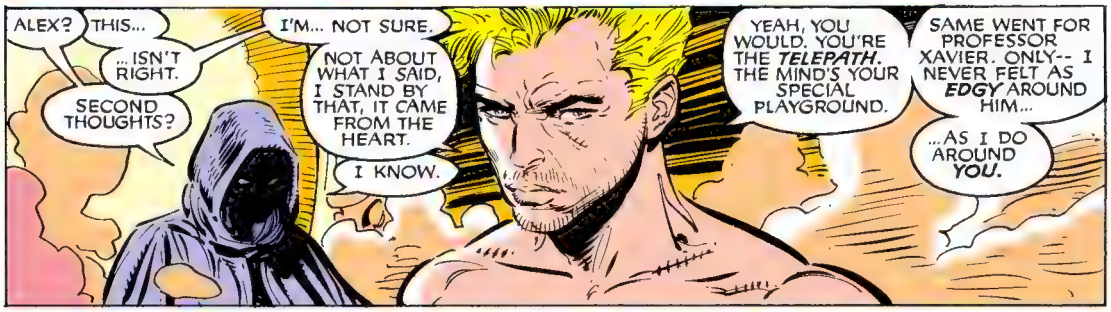
THEIR NEW LIVES, TOVARISCH.
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.


DA SVIDANYA, ELISABETH.

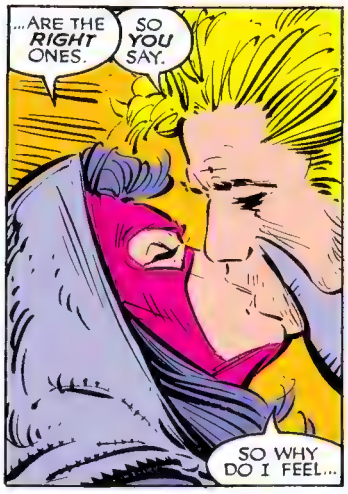

FAREWELL, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN.

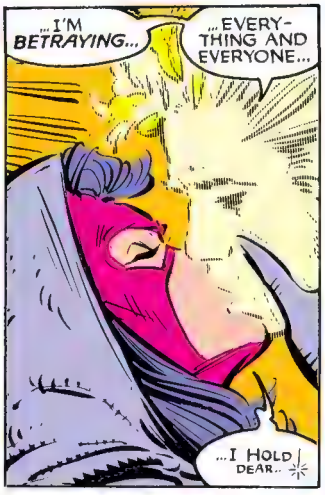

NOT A WORD ABOUT HIS FOLKS, OR HIS SISTER, ILLYANA?
THAT ISN'T LIKE PETEY.
SCARED, ALISON?
WHO, ME? HEY, GIRL, I USED TO BE THE HERALD OF GALACTUS!
YOU BETCHA!


THERE'S NO NEED, ALI. YOU'LL BE FINE.
SEZ YOU.
IT'S BEEN REAL, BETTS.
SEEYA!
MOVE IT, YOU STEELBACKS!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING UP TOP!


ALEX?
THIS...
...ISN'T RIGHT.
SECOND THOUGHTS?
I'M... NOT SURE.
NOT ABOUT WHAT I SAID, I STAND BY THAT, IT CAME FROM THE HEART.
I KNOW.
YEAH, YOU WOULD. YOU'RE THE TELEPATH. THE MIND'S YOUR SPECIAL PLAYGROUND.
SAME WENT FOR PROFESSOR XAVIER. ONLY-- I NEVER FELT AS EDGY AROUND HIM...
...AS I DO AROUND YOU.

DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
THE CONCLUSIONS I CAME TO...
...ARE JUSTIFIED.
THE CHOICES I'M MAKING...


...ARE THE RIGHT ONES.
SO YOU SAY.
SO WHY DO I FEEL...

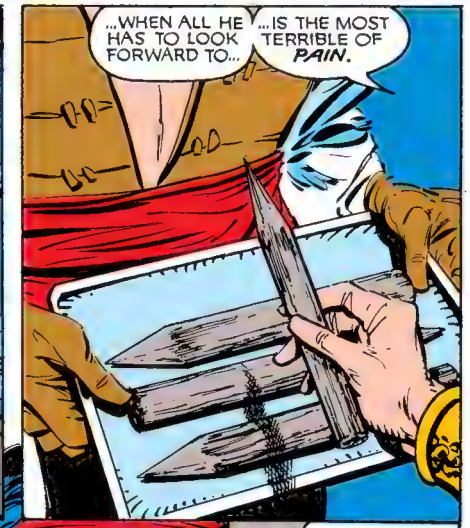

...I'M BETRAYING...
...EVERY-THING AND EVERYONE...
...I HOLD DEAR..

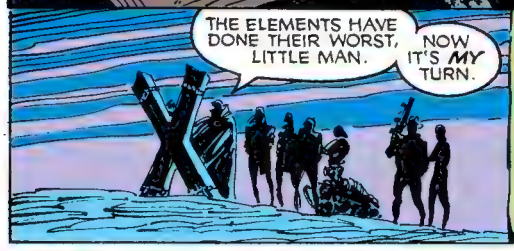
NOT YOU, MY SWEET.
THAT'S THE CROSS I CHOOSE TO BEAR.
THEY'RE GONE!
ALL SAVE THE MENTAT!
WHAT'D YOU DO WITH 'EM, PSIWITCH?!
WHERE'D THEY GO?!?

WHERE YOU CANNOT TOUCH THEM, REAVER.
YOU'LL KILL NO X-MEN TODAY.
CHINK!
SHE DID THIS!
PSYLOCKE USED HER TELEPATHY TO TRICK THE OTHERS THROUGH THE CRYSTAL!
GOLD STAR FOR YOU, BUNKIE!
KITTY-- YOUR VOICE--
--THE BROOD-QUEEN!
SUCH A SHAME YOUR INSIGHT...
...WILL NO MORE SAVE THEM...
...THAN IT WILL YOU!
CHOMP!

DREAM'S OVER.
BACK TO REALITY.

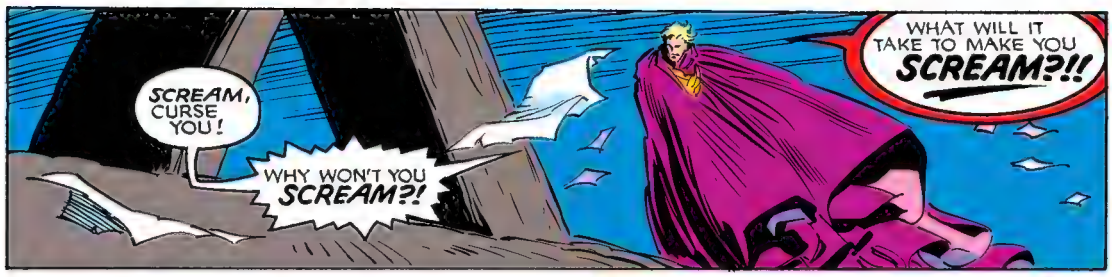
A LOVELY NIGHT, IS IT NOT?
POOR BOY, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ENJOYING IT.
PITY.
A MAN SHOULD SAVOR EVEN THE SMALLEST OF PLEASURES...

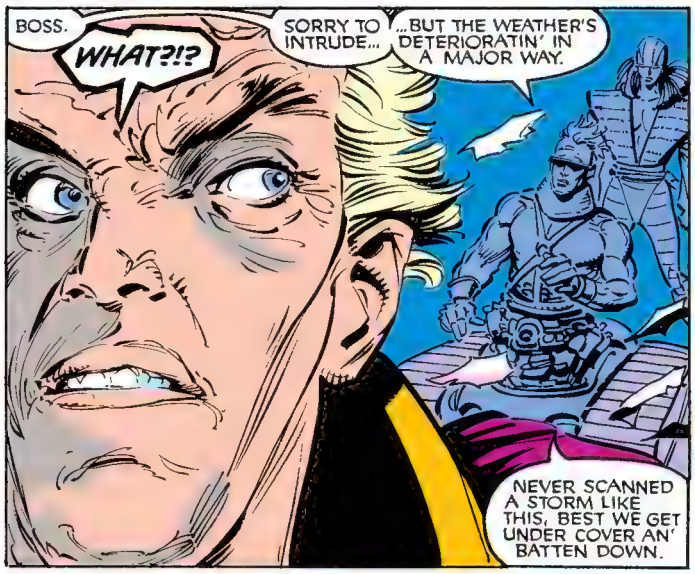

...WHEN ALL HE HAS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...
...IS THE MOST TERRIBLE OF PAIN.

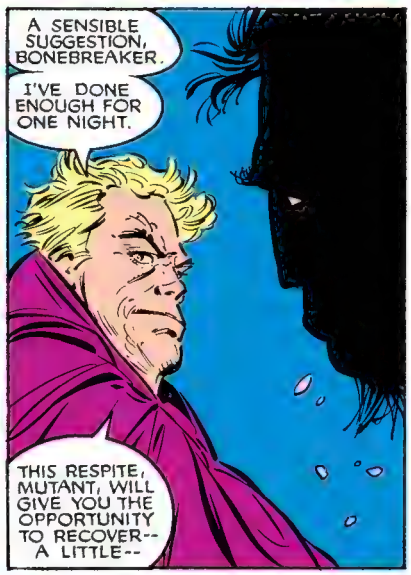

THE ELEMENTS HAVE DONE THEIR WORST, LITTLE MAN.
NOW IT'S MY TURN.

WHAT'S HE TALKING--?!

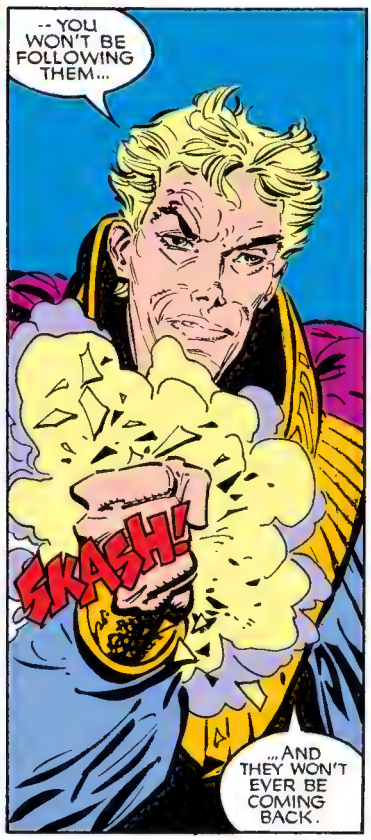
NO!
Oh, NO!
NO!
NO!


SCREAM, CURSE YOU!
WHY WON'T YOU SCREAM?!
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU SCREAM?!!

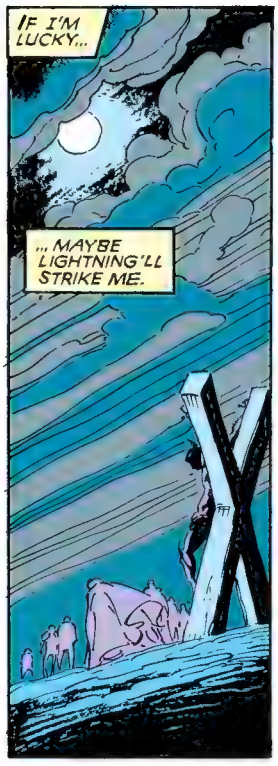

BOSS.
WHAT?!?
SORRY TO INTRUDE...
...BUT THE WEATHER'S DETERIORATIN' IN A MAJOR WAY.
NEVER SCANNED A STORM LIKE THIS, BEST WE GET UNDER COVER AN' BATTEN DOWN.


A SENSIBLE SUGGESTION, BONEBREAKER.
I'VE DONE ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT.
THIS RESPITE, MUTANT, WILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOVER-- A LITTLE--

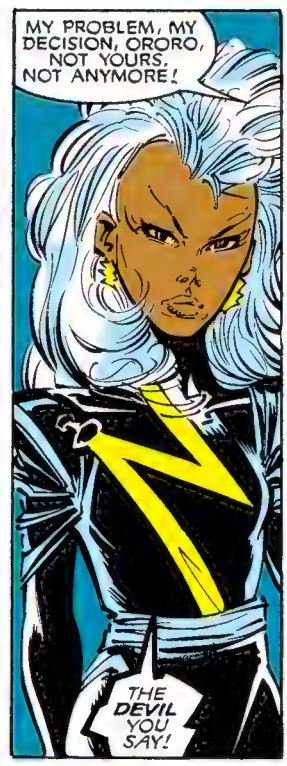
--AND REGAIN SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO MAKE OUR NEXT SESSION...
...HURT EVEN MORE.
AS FOR YOUR COMPANIONS, WOLVERINE--

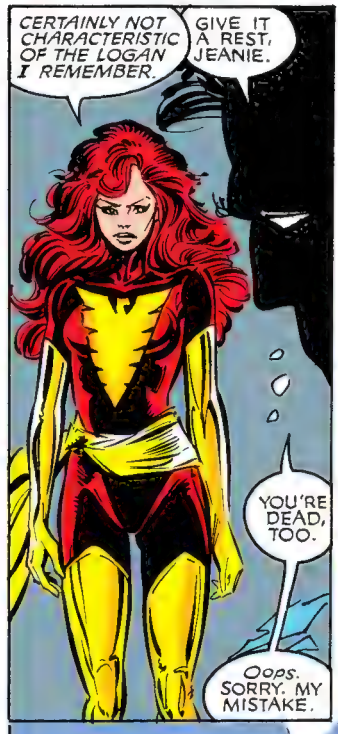

-- YOU WON'T BE FOLLOWING THEM...
SKASH!
...AND THEY WON'T EVER BE COMING BACK.

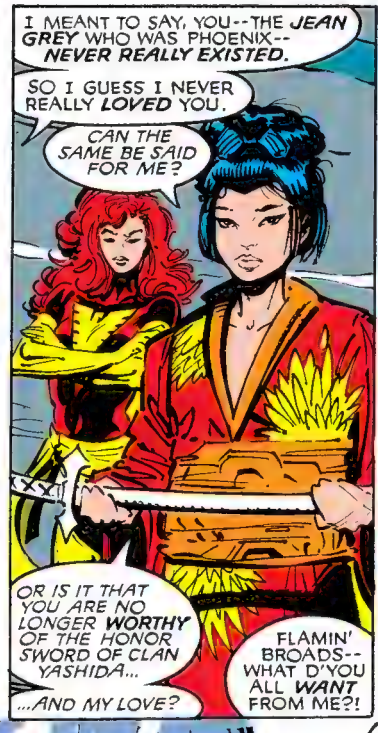
SKASH DOOM
YOU'RE MINE UNTIL YOU DIE!
AND THAT WON'T BE FOR A VERY LONG, LONG TIME.
X

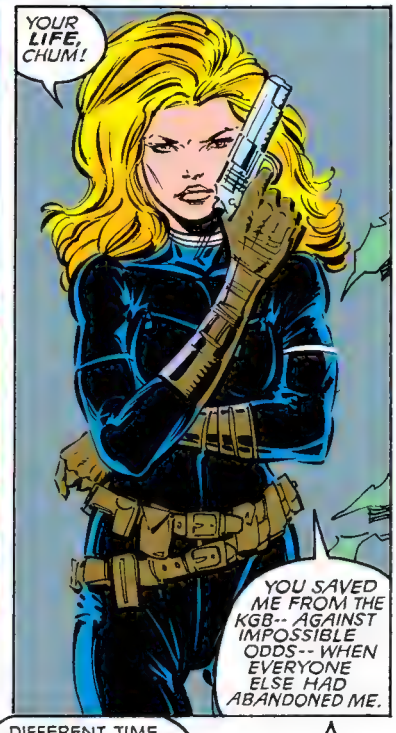

IF I'M LUCKY...
... MAYBE LIGHTNING'LL STRIKE ME.

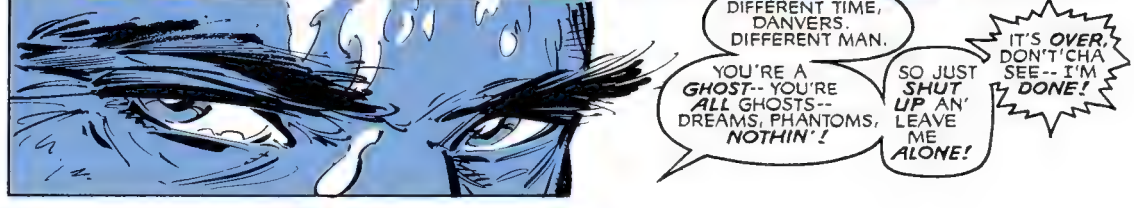
ARE YOU GIVING UP THEN, OLD FRIEND?
YOU GOT OBJECTIONS?
ALWAYS!
ARE YOU NOT THE ONE WHOSE CREED IS: WHILE I LIVE, I FIGHT!


MY PROBLEM, MY DECISION, ORORO, NOT YOURS. NOT ANYMORE!
THE DEVIL YOU SAY!


CERTAINLY NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LOGAN I REMEMBER.
GIVE IT A REST, JEANIE.
YOU'RE DEAD, TOO.
Oops. SORRY. MY MISTAKE.


I MEANT TO SAY, YOU--THE JEAN GREY WHO WAS PHOENIX-- NEVER REALLY EXISTED.
SO I GUESS I NEVER REALLY LOVED YOU.
CAN THE SAME BE SAID FOR ME?
OR IS IT THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER WORTHY OF THE HONOR SWORD OF CLAN YASHIDA...
...AND MY LOVE?
FLAMIN' BROADS-- WHAT D'YOU ALL WANT FROM ME?!


YOUR LIFE, CHUM!
YOU SAVED ME FROM THE KGB-- AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS-- WHEN EVERYONE ELSE HAD ABANDONED ME.


DIFFERENT TIME, DANVERS. DIFFERENT MAN.
YOU'RE A GHOST-- YOU'RE ALL GHOSTS-- DREAMS, PHANTOMS, NOTHIN'!
SO JUST SHUT UP AN' LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S OVER, DON'T'CHA SEE-- I'M DONE!

Bullpen Bulletins

"I don't care how strong he is--six tons of wheat ought to hold him for a while."

--Captain Marvel
CAPTAIN MARVEL SPECIAL #1

Hi True Believers!

Y' know , for the past few months I've been hitting a few comic book conventions all over the country (and don't be a wisenheimer and ask me if they hit back!). Now I'd like to share a few thoughts with you, thoughts that occured to me at those wild and wonderful gatherings.

First of all, if any of you have the idea that comic book conventions are primarily for kids, forget it! The nature and character of the attendees is a never-ending source of pride to me. I mean we're talking young adults, teenagers, college students, professional people, parents of all ages joining in the fun with their youngsters, and assorted literature and art lovers of every race, sex and nationality. Whenever I'm lucky enough to mingle with the great gang of comicbookpersons and their fans, I can't help but think how wonderful it would be if all of life could be like a comic con. Just think--no hassles, no hang ups, no bitterness, bigotry or bull dung. Just a bunch of happy humans, meeting on common ground, sharing a common passion, each finding something in these amazing publications, in the comic books they read and enjoy , something to excite them, to provoke them, to transport them away from their everyday problems, to replace the humdrum elements in their lives with the dazzling color and brilliance of fantasy!

No matter how harried and hapless we may be in our own workaday world, for one brief interval of time, a love for comic books brings us together and allows us to savor a world of imagery and romance, a world that we can share through the miracle of the printed page!

Y'know something? I love comics!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

ITEM: Friday, April 14 was the date of the second annual Mighty Marvel T-shirt Swapathon, and what a spectacle it was! Emceed by Fabulous *Fabian Nicieza*, the Swapathon pitted our ever-competitive Marvel staffers against each other in grueling, winner-take-T-shirt contests.

Memorable moments included Assistant Editor *Renee Witterstaetter*'s heartful rendition of "I'm a Little Teapot," Reproduction Department Administrator *Francine Burke*'s convincing impression of Editor in Chief *Tom DeFalco*, Submissions Editor *Evan Skolnick* knocking an apple off Executive Editor *Mark Gruenwald*'s head with a rubber frisbee, Editor *Howard Mackie*'s bellybutton lint, bullpenner *Harry Eisenstein*'s wailing imitation of Traffic Manager *Virginia Romita*, and Assistant Editor *Jim Di-Giovanna*'s brutal stare-down of fellow Assistant Editor *Sara Tuchinsky*!

Fun--as well as pizza--was had by all who participated. Sure, there were a few embarrassing moments...but at least no one *videotaped* the bizarre proceedings. As far as we know, anyway...

ITEM: Crafty *Carl Potts*, editor of such titles as THE PUNISHER, ALPHA FLIGHT and POWER PACK, gave up his days of bachelorhood April 22, and married Cunning *Cathleen Meloni* in Westchester, New York. Even as we speak the blissful newlyweds are honeymooning in our fiftieth state, Hawaii. Congrats to Carl and Cathy from Marvelites everywhere!

Pro File

Margaret Clark

Editor on: AKIRA, ALIEN LEGION, HAVOK AND WOLVERINE, ELSEWHERE PRINCE, STAR WARS, Moebius' BLUEBERRY Graphic Novels, ELEKTRA: ACT OF LOVE

Marvel freelance credits (past): DOOFENDERS OF THE EARTH, WATER CLOSET AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS STARRING DR. DOPEY, DOCTOR ZERO, ST. GEORGE, POWERLINE

Marvel freelance credits (present): CRITCAL MASS

My place of birth is: In the dark. The hospital I was born in lost their lights during a thunderstorm.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: One of the meanest people alive.

My hobbies are: Circling want ads in the *New York Times*.

My pet peeves are: I'm not allowed to have pets in my building.

My favorite performers are: *Mike Rockwitz*, Tiffany, Penn and Teller.

The last good book I read was: *The White Goddess* by Robert Graves.

The last good movie I saw was: The trailers before *Pet Sematary*.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Lily Tomlin, as suggested by *Adam Blaustein*.

My oddest habit is: Screaming at the top of my lungs, "It's comics , not brain surgery!"

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Taunting *John Wellington* to go off the *high* water slide at Action Park.

The reason I got into comics was: 1982.

The biggest influences on my work include: Stephen Hawkins, the clock and space.

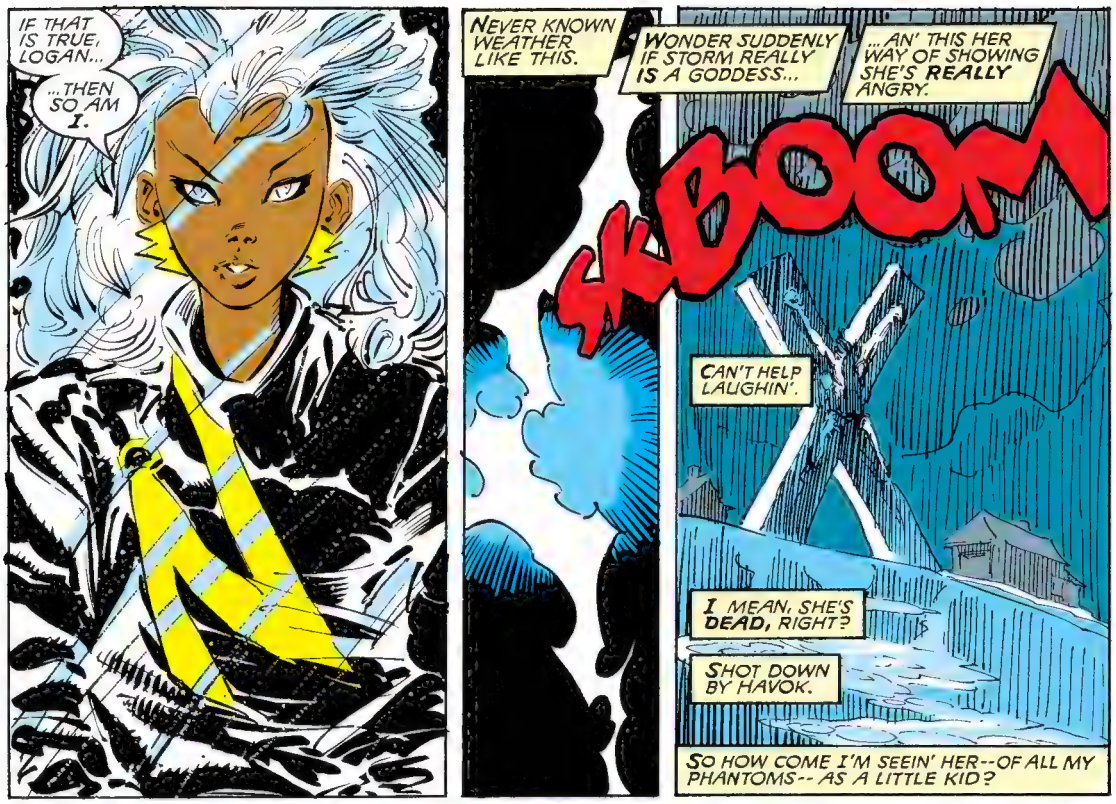
The single work of which I am most proud is: That I finally filled out this stinking form for *Evan*..

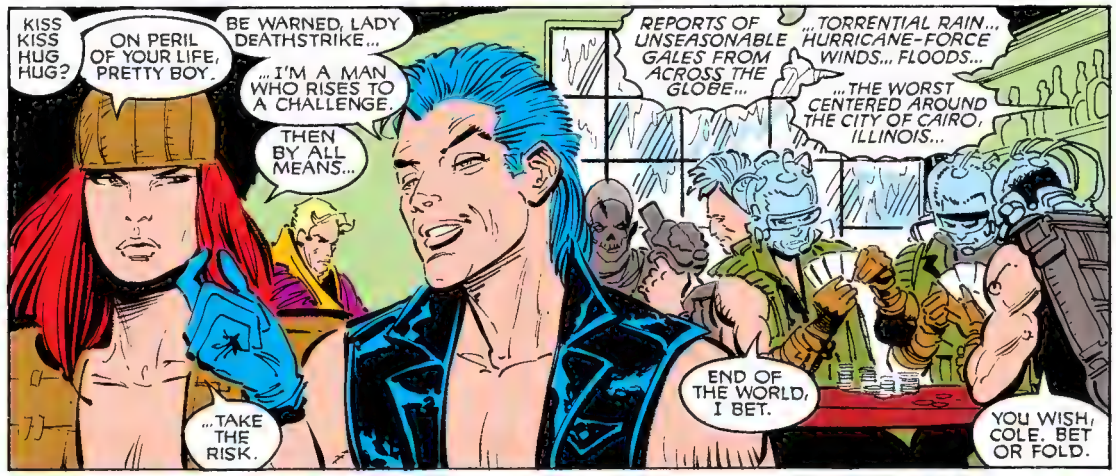
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: I didn't realize I was in a field, oh yeah, look at the cow... .

The worst part of my job is: Why gosh! There's no *one* worst part of my job.

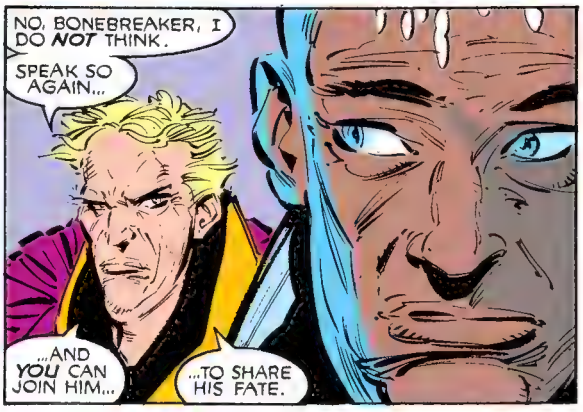
When nobody's looking I like to: Dangle the Antioch intern out the 10th floor window by her ankles.

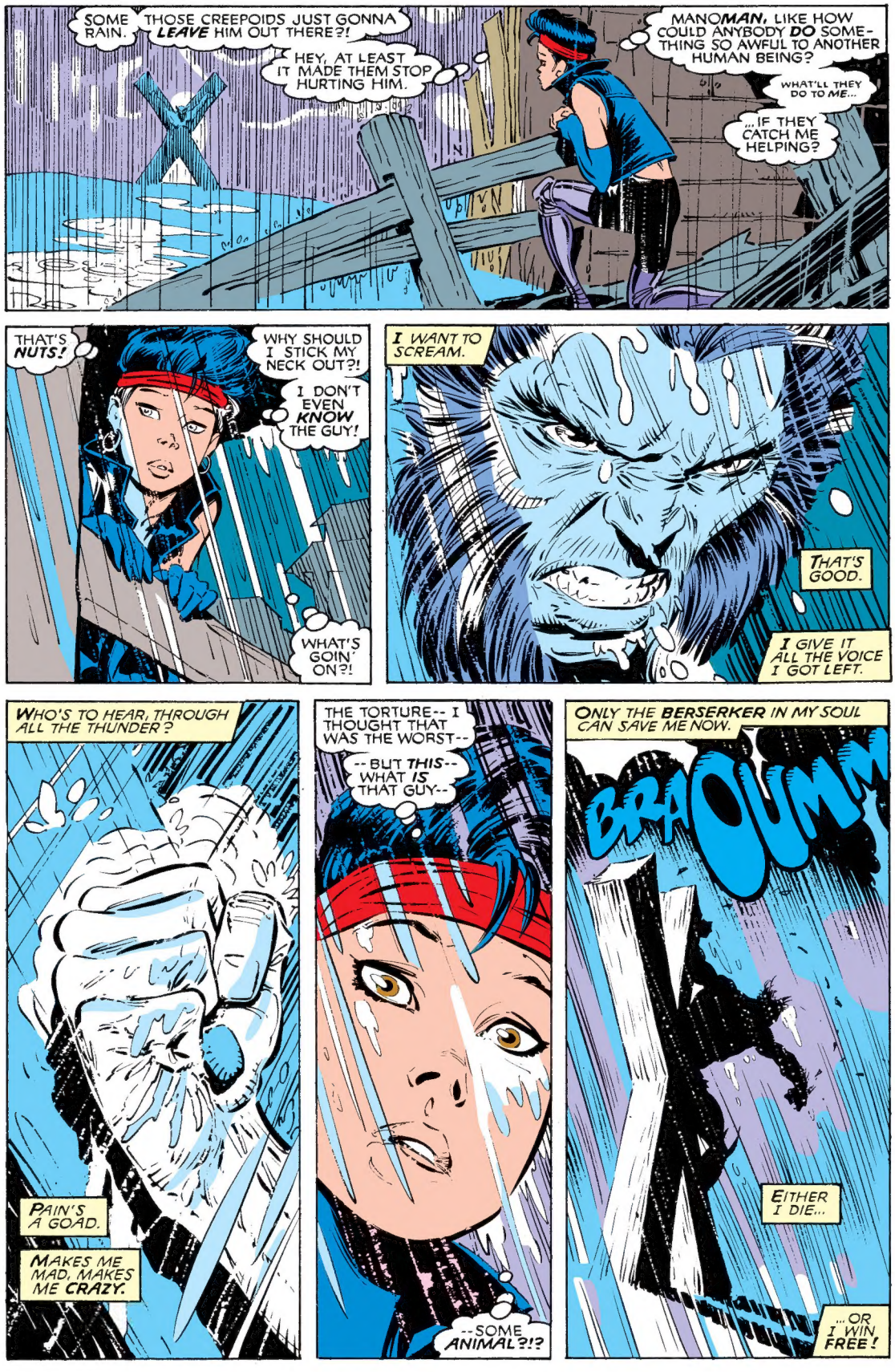
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: "They" were right in high school


IF THAT IS TRUE, LOGAN...
...THEN SO AM I.
NEVER KNOWN WEATHER LIKE THIS.
WONDER SUDDENLY IF STORM REALLY IS A GODDESS...
...AN' THIS HER WAY OF SHOWING SHE'S REALLY ANGRY.
KABOOM
CAN'T HELP LAUGHIN'.
I MEAN, SHE'S DEAD, RIGHT?
SHOT DOWN BY HAVOK.
SO HOW COME I'M SEEIN' HER--OF ALL MY PHANTOMS-- AS A LITTLE KID?


KISS KISS HUG HUG?
ON PERIL OF YOUR LIFE, PRETTY BOY.
BE WARNED, LADY DEATHSTRIKE...
...I'M A MAN WHO RISES TO A CHALLENGE.
THEN BY ALL MEANS...
...TAKE THE RISK.
REPORTS OF UNSEASONABLE GALES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE...
...TORRENTIAL RAIN... HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS... FLOODS...
...THE WORST CENTERED AROUND THE CITY OF CAIRO, ILLINOIS...
END OF THE WORLD, I BET.
YOU WISH, COLE. BET OR FOLD.

HAWHRHR!
BE A ROYAL CROCK, DON'T'CHA THINK...
...IF THAT LITTLE MUTIE SHRIMP WENT AN' GOT HIMSELF DROWNED.


NO, BONEBREAKER, I DO NOT THINK.
SPEAK SO AGAIN...
...AND YOU CAN JOIN HIM...
...TO SHARE HIS FATE.


SOME RAIN.
THOSE CREEPOIDS JUST GONNA LEAVE HIM OUT THERE?!
HEY, AT LEAST IT MADE THEM STOP HURTING HIM.
MANOMAN, LIKE HOW COULD ANYBODY DO SOMETHING SO AWFUL TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING?
WHAT'LL THEY DO TO ME...
...IF THEY CATCH ME HELPING?
THAT'S NUTS!
WHY SHOULD I STICK MY NECK OUT?!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE GUY!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
I WANT TO SCREAM.
THAT'S GOOD.
I GIVE IT ALL THE VOICE I GOT LEFT.
WHO'S TO HEAR, THROUGH ALL THE THUNDER?
PAIN'S A GOAD.
MAKES ME MAD, MAKES ME CRAZY.
THE TORTURE-- I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WORST--
--BUT THIS-- WHAT IS THAT GUY--
--SOME ANIMAL?!?
ONLY THE BERSERKER IN MY SOUL CAN SAVE ME NOW.
BRAOUMM
EITHER I DIE...
...OR I WIN FREE!

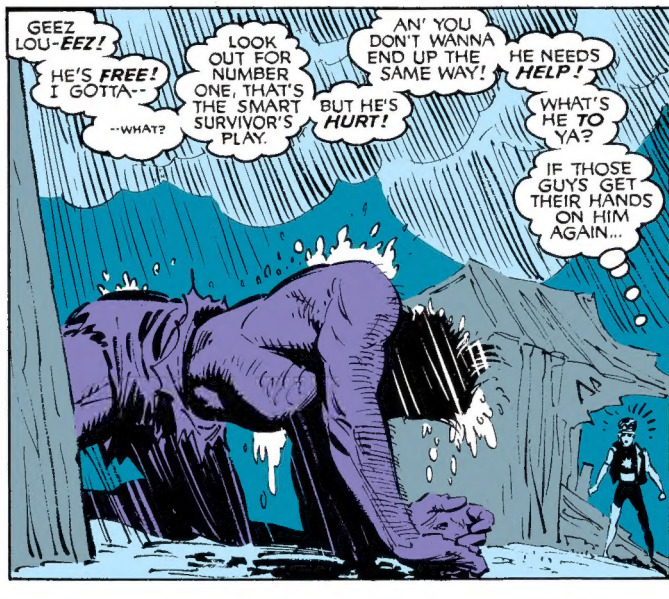
ONE ARM.

THEN TWO!

PROB'LY AN EASIER WAY TO DO THIS.

WHO FLAMIN' CARES!

THUNDER--LIGHTNING--
--STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT!


GEEZ LOU-EEZ!
HE'S FREE! I GOTTA--
--WHAT?
LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE, THAT'S THE SMART SURVIVOR'S PLAY.
AN' YOU DON'T WANNA END UP THE SAME WAY!
BUT HE'S HURT!
HE NEEDS HELP!
WHAT'S HE TO YA?
IF THOSE GUYS GET THEIR HANDS ON HIM AGAIN...

IF THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON ME--?!?
SO, KID--
HE SAW ME, HE KNOWS I'M HERE!
--YOU GONNA GIVE A FELLA A HAND, OR WHAT?
TO BE CONTINUED...

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP—
387 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-People,

I've been following the X-Men since about the time of issue #121, and, boy, has this book changed over the years! Many of the changes have been quite good, but lately I've felt as if things are going a little astray in all of the various X-books, and that we're letting these characters charge ahead while leaving various sub-plots behind!

For starters, none of your X-teams, save Excalibur, have a home that is grounded in reality. X-Factor used to live in a relatively normal building in Manhattan, and the X-Men and New Mutants used to live in Xavier's mansion. Now the teams live in mysterious spaceships and futuristic complexes in the Australian outback. Hardly what you could call normal. No more baseball games, no more swimming pools, no more homework, no more dance classes with Stevie Hunter, no more integration into normal society. The X-Men's battle wasn't just against evil mutants and goonies from space and the netherworld, but also to function within the world of regular people. I will grant you that the last two issues of the X-MEN involve the team entering shopping malls and bars, but the characters are apart from society rather than a part of it during these stories. Sure, they were lots of fun. Sure, they were sorely needed after all of those heavy action issues. Sure, they help showcase Chris Claremont's talent for characterization. But they also underscore the battle that your mutant teams have lost: they have gone astray from the world just outside our window, a world that not only we related to, but that they felt was important. Now, unfortunately, the order of the day is merely to save the world from the latest menace, not to actually live in it. There's a difference. The only team that has managed to retain this is Excalibur . . maybe that's why they are now my favorite of all of Marvel's mutant books.

In addition, there are several sub-plots, characters, and ideas that we also seem to have lost touch with or simply abandoned. For example:

1. Whatever happened to the sub-plot about Mystique knowing Nightcrawler's foster mother, Margali Szardos? Is Mystique a blood relative of Nightcrawler or what? Why don't we ever see Nightcrawler visit Margali? Will Nightcrawler ever try to patch things up with Amanda Sefton? Even if their relationship is over (please prove me wrong on that), Nightcrawler is too decent a man to not try to remain friends with Amanda. Does Kitty Pryde keep in touch with her parents? Isn't she a minor? Doesn't she have to go to school? What do her parents think of her trotting over to England? Doesn't Peter miss his parents enough to suggest ending this charade of the X-Men being dead so that he may write to them? Doesn't Wolverine miss Mariko?

2. How long can the X-Men really stay "dead" if Wolverine is always being seen in his own mag by people who know him such as Karma, Jessica Drew, and Silver Samurai? Don't you think that you are stretching credibility a little too thin? An eyepatch is simply not a believable disguise (and no, I don't believe Clark Kent's glasses are good enough either). Don't the New Mutants wonder that if Colossus is alive that the other X-Men might be, too? Will X-Factor and the New Mutants now keep in touch with the X-Men? Will the New Mutants tell Kitty and Nightcrawler in England? Don't these people ever want to just socialize with each other (aren't they friends)?

3. Why haven't we seen people's reactions to the X-Men's death except for X-Factor, New Mutants, and Excalibur? There are plenty of other supporting characters (non-super-powered) that I would have liked to see, even if for the last time.

4. Whatever happened to Colonel Rossi? Why was he a secret buddy with Charles Xavier, and why were the two of them snooping into SHIELD? Was it because the Hellfire Club was infiltrating SHIELD? If so, whatever happened to them, and were they up to anything in particular?

5. Ages ago, on the last page of an issue of the X-MEN, there was some Russian government official who wore an eyepatch that was upset that Russia didn't have their own mutant team(s). What happened to this sub-plot?

6. Whatever happened to Officer Corsi and Nurse Friedlander? It has been so long since they have been dealt with that I don't even remember how to spell their names! They were kicked around and kicked around, but never adequately dealt with. Please don't let them float in limbo . use them or cure them! Where is Stevie Hunter? What has Moira MacTaggart been up to? Please, let's shed some light onto these characters!

7. Waaaaaaay back in the NEW MUTANTS book, Viper and Silver Samurai went to a lot of trouble to get Team America to steal some crystal from AIM, and AIM went to a lot of trouble to try to keep it. What in the world ever happened to that story?

8. How come Rogue and Sebastian Shaw knew each other in the "Scavenger Hunt" X-MEN ANNUAL that featured the Impossible Man? So far as I know, they hadn't met before . . is there some "untold story" out there? For that matter, why doesn't Rogue have any other name? How did she meet Mystique?

9. Enough is enough! Can we please see Wolverine's origin presented without any gaps or holes in it? I'm willing to bet you that this summer's Wolverine Saga won't present any new info.

10. If the Savage Land was destroyed by Terminus in the AVENGERS and the latest X-MEN ANNUAL, then could somebody explain where and when ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL #2 took place?

And by now I'm sure you get the idea. Basically, I feel as if the X-MEN (and some of the other X-books, especially the NEW MUTANTS) have slowly shifted their emphasis from character development to slugfests. Non-action stories, after all, allow us as readers to catch our breath and get to know these people a little better. I know that these books all sell well, but it was to a large extent the formula of character emphasis that got you to where you are. I think that, over the long haul, abandoning this approach will slowly but surely erode your readership. Please remember some of the classic issues: #122, 138, 165, 168, 174, 183, etc. Another path to explore are the single character oriented stories, similar to the CLASSIC X-MEN back-ups: the "Lifedeath" stories, the Wolverine mini-series, issue 143, etc. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS doesn't fill this void.

And finally, one last deep, probing question. Why wasn't X-MEN #110 reprinted in CLASSIC X-MEN? There is, after all, a reference made to it around issue #129.

Best of luck in the future!

Gregory B. Hecht
Box 170
Graduate College
Princeton, NJ 08544

Although we can't answer all your questions, Greg, we *can* tell you that you will be seeing Amanda Sefton, Moira MacTaggart, Officer Corsi, Nurse Friedlander plus some other long-unseen guest stars in a very prominent light in just a few issues.

But we do promise to address some of those dangling plotlines you mentioned. Okay? Okay.

Dear X-Cats,

THE UNCANNY X-MEN #244 was great! This is the way Marvel women should be handled—strong, soft, smart, silly, feminine, superhuman, and human. This should become The Marvel Handbook for Writing and Drawing Marvel Women.

I also liked the skateboarders on page 4.

Thanks!

Troy Greenwalt
Rt. #2 Box 430
Greenville, KY 42345

You're welcome, Troy!

Dear Bob, Chris, and Co.,

From the opening panel to the last, I got a real kick out of X-MEN #245. The many "guest stars" on pages 2 and 3 were worth my dollar alone. Fortunately, you gave me more.

Clark, Perry, Jimmy, and the *Planet* on page 24 was also great as were the C3 Tyrax and the Daxamite, and especially the Jean Bomb. Oh, and Australia and "This is a blaster." Bwahahahahah!

Keep up the great work. X-MEN has been so intense this past year, it's great to see everyone lighten up once in a while.

This is a comic to be savored and read many times (because you keep picking up little things you missed before). A pat on the back to everyone involved: Chris, Rob (come back anytime), Dan, Tom, Glynis, Bob, and Tom.

Ron Phillips
506 Village Ct. #412
Jasper, IN 47546

We aim to please, Ron!

In Two Weeks...

MINUTEMEN
Bluntman